our serious concern at the incidents of violence against them. Both sides agreed on the need to take steps to avoid untoward incidents in each other's waters and to address the problems faced by the fishermen in a spirit of compassion and understanding.

Further discussions on problems faced by the Fishermen were held during a visit by a Sri Lankan delegation in February, 1997. Both sides agreed to examine modalities to ensure the safety of fishermen and to deal with cases of fishermen straying across the International Boundary Line in a practical and safe manner.

Ayurvedic Medical Treatment Facilities for P&T Employees

*250. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ayurvedic medical treatment facilities are available at the hospital run by the Department of Posts for its employees; if so, the details of the places where such facilities are available; and

(b) whether the Department of Telecommunications also propose to provide such facilities for all of its employees in the hospitals run by it; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) There are 56 P&T dispensaries located in 48 stations all over the country which provide out-door treatment for P&T employees, their families as well as pensioners. These beneficiaries can avail themselves of Ayurvedic medicines on being referred to Government and other recognised hospitals by the P&T doctors. Certain common branded Ayurvedic medicines are included in the P&T Formulary (list of medicines which are to be stocked by the P&T Dispensaries) which are disbursed, on the prescription of Specialist. The Ayurvedic medicines which are not included in the Formulary, but are prescribed by Ayurvedic Government authorised Doctor of any hospital, can be procured from local authorised Chemist. As such, there is no denial of Ayurvedic treatment to P&T employees/pensioners where our dispensaries are located.

(b) All the P&T Dispensaries are under the administrative control of Department of Posts even though the beneficiaries included the Telecom officials-pensioners and their family members.

Amount spent on development of Handicrafts

*251. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on the development of handicrafts during the year 1996-97 in the different parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government for the development of handicrafts;

(c) the details of incentives and facilities that are given to the rural artisans to promote handicrafts in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) A statement showing total amount of grant released to various States during 1996-97 for the development of handicrafts in the country is enclosed *(See* below)

(b) For development of handicrafts, the steps taken by the Government are as follows:—

(i) Training;

(ii) Design & Technical Development;

(iii) 'Marketing programme viz craft